

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP2003/010767 Filed September 27, 2003**

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the instant Specification, without prejudice, as follows:

Please delete all text above line 12 of page 1, including the heading “Prior Art” and replace the deleted matter with the following new section headings and title of the invention:

**--TITLE OF THE INVENTION**

**Method for Protecting the Skin from Aging**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--**

At page 3, at line 7 thereof, please delete the section heading “Description of the Invention”, and insert the following new section headings and new paragraph:

**--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates generally to cosmetic preparations and, more particularly, to a cosmetic process for protecting the human skin, scalp and/or mucous membrane against ageing, oxidative stress and the harmful effects of environmental toxins and UV radiation. The present invention also relates to the use of a substance which modulates lumican and/or syndecan and/or versican and/or decorin and/or glypican and/or biglycan for the production of cosmetic preparations and preparations for treating particular skin diseases.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--**

At page 15 , line 1, please delete “**CLAIMS**”, and replace it with:  
--What is claimed is:--.

On a separate, new page 18, please add the following new section heading and paragraph containing an Abstract of the Disclosure: